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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,672	07/26/2001	John M. Surwillo	070191/320 (31-CD-6181)	7286

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EXAMINER

OROPEZA, FRANCES P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3762

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/915,672

Applicant(s)

SURWILLO ET AL.

Examiner

Frances P. Oropeza

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/26/01 (Filing).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 is unclear because it appears "a user" should be --the user--.

Claim 13 is unclear because it appears "a key" should be --the key-- and "a user" should be --the user--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint Inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. The Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the Inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the

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examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1, 3, 15, 16, 18-20 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Selker et al. (US 5501229) in view of Nakamura (US 6380921).

Selker et al. disclose an instrument for monitoring cardiac characteristics of a patient comprising an electrocardiograph (10), a printer (26), display (28) and keyboard (22) (figure 1; col. 2 @ 32-62). Selker et al. disclose the claimed invention except for an illuminating component (claims 1, 15 & 24), a component for activating and deactivating the illuminating component (claims 1, 8, 15, 22 & 24), a deactivating component (claims 1, 8, 12-15, 22, 24 & 28), illuminating the keypad (claims 3 & 19), the illuminating component being an LED (claim 16), a supporting element (claim 18), the computer program performing the illumination method (23), the predetermined time being 60 minutes (claim 23), an on/off switch (claims 25 & 27) and a light source (claim 26).

Nakamura discloses an illuminated touch screen and teaches using the following elements, combinable for the reasons noted, to modify the instrument for monitoring cardiac characteristics as taught by Selker et al.:

- an illuminating component (30) for the purpose of lighting the touch screen surface in order to enable the user to use the instrument in dark environments (col. 1 @ 15-20 and 32-36),

- a switch (6), read as a component for activating and deactivating the illuminating component, for the purpose of controlling the illumination source in order to provide light for the touch screen in order to enable the user to use the instrument in dark environments (col. 1 @ 15-20 and 32-36),
- the illumination controller (13), read as the deactivating component for the illumination component, and illumination timer (15) for the purpose of turning off the lights during periods when the touch screen has not be used for a predetermined period of time in order to save the power (col. 4 @ 13-18; col. 5 @ 53-60),
- illuminating the keypad/ touch screen (figure 1B) in order to enable the user to see clearly and use the instrument in dark environments (col. 1 @ 15-20 and 32-36),
- the illuminating component being an LED for the purpose of lighting the touch screen in order to enable the user to use the instrument in dark environments (col. 1 @ 15-20 and 32-36),
- the lid, read as a supporting element, for the purpose of supporting and enabling direction of the lights to the touch screen (figure 1 B; col. 3 @ 44-46),
- the CPU (11) and associated computer program controls the illumination method for the purpose of automating the control of the lights to optimize the handling performance of the instrument and to prevent wasteful power consumption (col. 4 @ 1-3 and 48-54),

- the predetermined time being 60 minutes, for the purpose of providing sufficient time to review the results on the screen, yet not waste power or have the nuisance of having to re-illuminate the screen during the monitoring and data review process col. 4 @ 48-54). Absent any teaching of criticality or unexpected result for the specific time period, a 60 minute predetermined time period would have been an obvious design choice,
- an on/off switch (6), read as a component for activating and deactivating the illuminating component, for the purpose of controlling the illumination source in order to provide light for the touch screen in order to enable the user to use the instrument in dark environments (col. 1 @ 15-20 and 32-36), and
- the illuminating component being a light source for the purpose of illuminating the touch screen in order to enable the user to use the instrument in dark environments (col. 1 @ 15-20 and 32-36).

4. Claims 2, 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Selker et al. (US 5501229) in view of Nakamura (US 6380921) and further in view of Polley et al. (US 5868487). As discussed in paragraph 3 of this action, modified Selker et al. disclose the claimed invention except for illuminating a work surface (claims 2, 17 & 21) and the component for activating and deactivating being a toggle switch (claim 4).

Relative to illuminating work surface, Polley et al. teach computer work area lighting system using a light(s) on an arm to illuminate a work surface for the purpose of

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providing proper lighting for the work area. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used lighting for the work surface in the modified Selker et al. system in order to enable the instrument operator to view and use the system components, including the work surface and printer, so the monitoring task is successfully completed (col. 1 @ 4-6, 16-25 and 49-53).

Relative to the toggle switch, Polley et al. teach computer work area lighting system using a toggle switch(es) (17, 18) for the purpose of activating and deactivating the illumination sources. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a toggle switch in the modified Selker et al. system in order to provide the instrument operator with control over the illumination system so the optimum lighting configuration can be controlled by the instrument operator (col. 1 @ 17-25; col. 2 @ 44-64; col. 3 @ 21-27; col. 4 @ 3-28).

5. Claims 5-14, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Selker et al. (US 5501229) in view of Nakamura (US 6380921) and further in view of Nelms et al. (US 4365290). As discussed in paragraph 3 of this action, modified Selker et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the keys being associated with an instruction (claim 5), a determining component to scan the keyboard and determine if a key has been pressed (claims 6, 8, 11, 22), and deactivating the illuminating component when a toggle key is pressed (claim 9).

Relative to the keys being associated with an instruction, Nelms et al. teach a computer system using keys (26) associated with parameters, read as an instructions,

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for the purpose of enabling selected activity sequences for the instrument. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used keys associated with an instruction in the modified Selker et al. system in order to effectively and efficiently accomplish multi-component tasks with the push of a single button (col. 4 @ 1-10; col. 10 @ 51-62).

Relative to a determining component to scanning the keyboard to determine if a key has been pressed, Nelms et al. teach a computer system using a decoder for the purpose of determining which keys have been pressed by the instrument operator. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a decoder in the modified Selker et al. system in order to provides the instrument with a component to enable communication between the operator and the computer system so the desired testing and monitoring is accomplished (col. 5 @ 55-65).

Relative the toggle key, Nelms et al. teach a computer system using a toggle key (22-2) for the purpose of activating and deactivating power. It would have been an obvious design choice to used a toggle key to activate and deactivate power to an illumination means. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a toggle key to activate and deactivate the illumination component in the modified Selker et al. system in order to have a convenient means for controlling the light associated with the instrument so the operator can effectively conducts the monitoring and evaluation of the patient (col. 8 @ 20-22).

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6. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Selker et al. (US 5501229) in view of Nakamura (US 6380921) and further in view of Gallant et al. (US 4316249). As discussed in paragraph 3 of this action, Gallant et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the printing medium moving across the work surface.

Gallant et al. teach cardiac monitoring using a printer (14) where for the printing medium moves across the work surface for the purpose of enabling the instrument operator to continuously monitor the cardiac readings and make adjustments as needed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a printer where for the printing medium moves across the work surface in the modified Selker et al. system in order to provide an optimum recording of the patient's cardiac activity so proper diagnosis and intervention can be undertaken if needed (figure 1; col. 5 @ 6-48).

Drawings

7. The drawings are objected to because:

In figure 1 two elements are labeled with the reference numeral 40, and

The Examiner is unable to find "bin 42" in the drawings (instant specification - page 7, line 4) .

Correction is required.

Specification

8. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 6, line 8, it appears "plate 24" should be --plate 30--,

On page 7, line 10, it appears "plate 24" should be --plate 30--, and

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On page 8, line 10, it appears "electrodes 16" should be --electrodes 14--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Conclusion

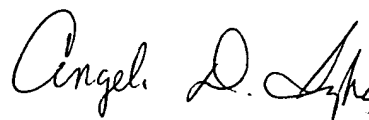
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Fran Oropeza, telephone number is (703) 605-4355. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Angela D. Sykes can be reached on (703) 308-5181. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-4520 for regular communication and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist, telephone number is (703) 308-0858.

Frances P. Oropeza
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3762

FPO
5/29/03



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